The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

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Tom Wolfe talks

Stuck in the cold?

Photo/Denyse Gibson

Many patient students were left standing in the cold last Thursday evening at the SAP/SAA-sponsored pub event, *Eclipse*. Some students did not make it through the doors until 12:30 a.m., following DJ Starting From Scratch's performance on stage and a mere hour and a half before the closing of the pub. Read the full story on page 3.

Victims of tsunami honoured at UTM

Memorial held in Student Centre for those lost in Asian disaster

BY SAIRA MUZAFFAR

Three weeks after people everywhere were made aware of the deadly waves that destroyed several coastal areas of Southern Asia and East Africa, the word tsunami has become synonymous with woe stricken pictures of survivors who lost loved ones and the ever-climbing numbers of casualties. An estimated 160,000 lives were lost and there are millions whose lives were changed drastically overnight.

The U of T commemorated January 11 as a day to honour and mourn the victims of one of the worst natural disasters recorded. Interim President Frank Iacobucci released a statement saying,

"The scope of this tragedy is unimaginable, but the response from Canadians across the country has been heartening."

Memorial services were held at all three campuses and included fund-raising initiatives by both the student body and faculty. At UTM, the service was hosted by Dean of Student Affairs, Mark Overton, and included speakers from the student body and the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel, who spoke briefly about the ramifications of confronting such a disaster.

Reverend Jeffrey Brown shared his concerns about the general anger directed towards God or Nature in the light of the recent tragedies. He said,

" I am amazed to hear ' I am really angry at God and this is precisely why I don't believe in him.' I don't know of any other non-existent being that has such a bad rep."

He advised that this anger should instead be directed towards those who hold power over people in third world countries, such as those affected terribly by the earthquake.

"In these situations the official media lets down its general cynicism and tells us that it's okay to show our caring sides" he remarked. "The goodness of humanity is always there. Unfortunately, very few of us are encouraged to show [concerns for humanity] outside our small groups of friends or family. When we are ever urged to share our [concerns] it's only for some kind of natural disaster and not for common world problems that can actually be [helped] through collective restructuring."

The ceremony was finalized with a brief speech from student Charnika de Almeida from the Sri Lankan Students Association.

> "Here in Canada, most of us live comfortable and privileged lives and it's great to see the help. It will take years for the affected countries to recover."
> - Charnika de Almeida, Sri Lankan Students Association

"As we enter this new semester, it is remarkable to see the amount of support given by the students at UTM. The students and staff have contributed so much concern and support" she stated. "Here in Canada, most of us live comfortable and privileged lives and it's great to see the help. It will take years for the affected countries to recover."

Many students felt responsible for doing their part in helping local non-government organizations with dona-

U of T continued on page 2

Photo/Tracy Moniz

Reverend Jeffrey Brown reflects on the role of God in the tsunamis that killed hundreds of thousands.

Annual Summer Jobs Fair brings a world of employment to students

BY JULIE TYIOS

Last Wednesday the Career Centre held its annual Summer Job Fair in the Student Centre, as an opportunity for all undergraduates to meet and greet prospective seasonal employers.

The Student Centre was filled with displays and company associates who were there to inform students about their jobs and attract the interest of students to fill summer positions within the businesses. Altogether 26 corporations were present, including the City of Mississauga, 1-800-GOT-JUNK, Compass Group Canada, Centreville Amusement Park, Vector Marketing and Community Living Mississauga.

"We employ about 40 students every summer, as well as 15 to 20 every year on a full-time or part-time basis" remarked 1-800-GOT-JUNK? representative Paul Guy. "We already operate in Mississauga but we're looking to expand our workforce here and we'd like some students on our team."

Students were invited to mill around during the three-hour event and research into potential temporary and permanent employers pertaining to their studies as well as a possibility for future careers.

"I'm looking for a summer job and to see what else is available" said third year psychology student Pradeepan Satha. "I'm doing psychology so I'm looking for something social with children, to see if I can get any experience in the field I want to go into."

"The Summer Job Fair helps students in more ways than they could think" agreed first-year student Kriz Cuenco. "If a student wanted to apply outside of their program of study they need good grades and extracurricular activities. Events like this make it much easier."

Employers continued on page 3

Photo/Denyse Gibson

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U of T reaches out to help victims now left homeless in disaster

Continued from front

tions. The Sri Lankan Students Association teamed up with the Tamil Student Association (TSA) to launch Ribbons For Rescue campaign. The two organizations also collaborated for a bake sale and raffle.

The TSA of all three campuses had originally scheduled a dinner and dance on December 30, but the celebratory evening soon turned into an impressive fundraising campaign.

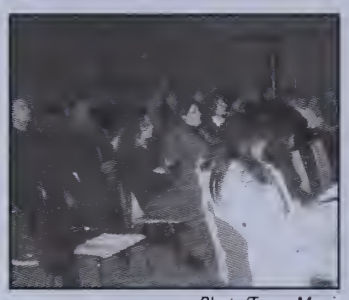
"Because of what happened on the 26 we just held the dinner part and had an auction. All three campuses combined, the whole event raised $13,700", said Pradeentan Suththananthan, a TSA representative.

When asked whether the organizations were focusing on yearlong fund raising efforts to support long-term relief programs the representatives said,

"People can only give so much, so we want to [do something] while the momentum is going." All the money raised is to be donated to the International Red Cross.

While news headlines are filled with millions of dollars pledged by one country or another, it should not be forgotten that the countries affected by this awesome disaster are some of the world's poorest and many are either in or have just emerged from situations involving civil wars and unrest. Although the timely response of relief agencies is preventing the previously estimated loss of millions due to the spread of disease and infected waters, the victims still need places to live and eventually jobs to survive. For such efforts U of T administration is looking towards long-term involvement in the crisis' outcome including a plan to help create an early warning system for tsunami like occurrences in the future.

"Our talented people and wide expertise can be a positive force in the midst of human tragedy - witness the many initiatives that are now underway in Africa as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. I believe that we can find the means to employ our talents in the present crisis" remarked U of T president Frank Iacobucci at the Memorial service in Hart House. Plans are underway for Erindale to contribute massively to the effort, with plans to get the administration to match the gross sum of donations generated.



Photo/Tracy Moniz

Events @ UTM (And St. George) events@mediumonline.ca

Careers in Activism Panel
When: January 18, 11:00-1:00 p.m.
Location: Student Centre Boardroom

Presented by the Career Centre, co-sponsored by: Breakdown, Erindale Environmental Association, Sociology Club, Student Administrative Council and the UTM Women's Centre. Panelists include: a Lawyer with Downtown Legal Services; a Social Worker with the Women Abuse Council of Toronto; the Executive Director of EcoSource Ontario; and a Former Director of the UN Hague Appeal for Peace.

"Faces of Space" Lecture Series
When: January 13, 7 p.m.
Location: Bahen Centre, Room 1190 (40 St. George St. just north of College)

Lecture- "Life in Extreme Environments- ocean floor to depths of space."

Steve Scott will be speaking on the topic "Extreme Environments on the Deep Ocean Floor," and Paul Delaney will be speaking on the topic "Europa: An unlikely place to search for life?"

For more information, contact Justin Trottier, 416-402-8856.

U of T Drama Festival
When: January 19-22, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hart House Theatre, St. George Campus
Cost: $12/$10 for students/seniors

Premiering 11 student written one-act plays, the U of T Drama Festival is an annual event sponsored by Hart House Theatre and the University of Toronto Drama Coalition. Plays start nightly at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit http://www.harthousetheatre.ca or call 416-97 UTTIX.

Campus Police Reports

January 5th - January 12th, 2005

January 5th, 2005 @ 3:20 p.m.
Mischief under $5000

Two windows at the North Building were broken. Approximate cost of the windows is $600.

January 6th, 2005 @ 10:28 a.m.
Motor Vehicle Accident

Two vehicles collided on Outer Circle Road. Damage was estimated at $2000. No one was hurt in the accident.

January 8th, 2005 @ 12:47 a.m.
Large party/ Uninvited guests

University Police removed a group of non-community members from a McLuhan Court party. They attend a sanctioned gathering uninvited.

January 8th, 2005 @ 3:14 a.m.
Noise Complaint

University Police attended Erindale Hall to quiet down a party. The party was quiet upon their arrival.

January 9th, 2005 @ 3:00 a.m.
Trespassing at Night

University Police investigated a complaint about someone lurking near a residence.

January 9th, 2005 @ 12:30 a.m.
Trespassing at Night

University Police investigated a complaint about someone lurking near a residence and looking into windows.

January 9th, 2005 @ 7:35 p.m.
Disruptive Behavior

Two men argued with a group rehearsing for a dance competition at the Student Center. The men were upset at the music being played. They left before University Police arrived.

January 10th, 2005 @ 8:51 p.m.
Motor Vehicle Accident

A car at Outer Circle Road hit a deer. Animal Control Services attended and removed the animal.

January 10th, 2005 @ 12:30 a.m.
Suspicious Person

University Police investigated a non-community member sleeping in a car at Inner Circle Road. The man was told to leave.

January 11th, 2005 1:36 a.m.
Noise Complaint

University Police attended Residence Road near Roy Ivor Hall and quieted a stereo being played in a car.

January 11th, 2005 @ 8:25 p.m.
Trespass at Night

University Police investigated a complaint of a man seen looking into bedroom windows of a UTM residence.

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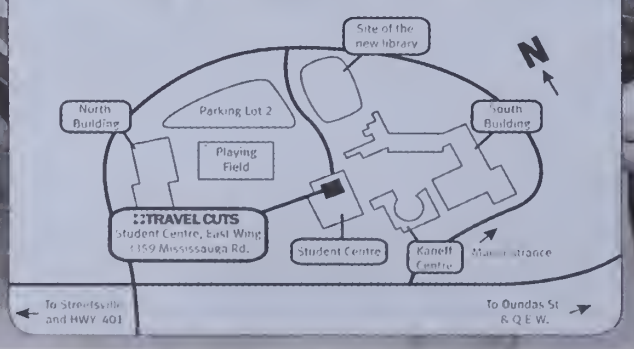

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Students upset over ticket sales for SAP/SAA pub night

BY JULIE TYIOS

There were mixed feelings last Thursday night from students over the Style n' Profyle (SAP) and South Asian Alliance (SAA) pub night held, entitled *Eclipse*, which has spawned controversy over advance ticket sales and wait times at the door.

Club executives offered to donate a portion of the proceeds of the pub to tsunami relief efforts and offered the first hundred tickets to go on sale at half-price on January 10. When a booth was set up in the Meeting Place, however, there were no tickets sold at a reduced price with an explanation from the ticket sellers that they had already been sold out, according to student complaints to *The Medium*.

"Anyone who wanted to purchase tickets on that day had either to call one of the numbers on the back of our flyer or stop by the Style and Profyle office" reported SAP Executive Madeleine Mikhail. "Nevertheless, there were a few $5 tickets remaining when we set up the table in the South on Tuesday and these were sold to anyone who approached us wanting to buy a ticket."

Tickets sold to either club's executive were not accounted for in the batch of one hundred advance tickets sold, according to Mikhail, but were sold on that day prior to the booth set-up and a few were left over for table sales.

Students also launched complaints about the wait times at the door for ticket holders, some standing in line for upwards of two hours, according to sources. The pub was still relatively empty one and a half hours following the doors opening, leaving many students waiting outside in the cold with their tickets in hand with no explanation.

"I saw people standing outside for hours" said one student who wished to remain anonymous. "Some people were getting waved in from the back of the line who were friends of the hosts. It was ridiculous. People were standing there with their tickets until 12.30."

"It's getting much much better" remarked club executive Johnny Singh inside the pub. "I was here about an hour and a half ago, but like every venue it takes until about 11:30 to start, so people that come early kind of get expectations flushed down the toilet. People are dancing now, however, and seem to be having fun." Once inside the doors, students were treated to the talents of DJ Starting From Scratch, of Flow 93.5 FM fame. Starting From Scratch had originally been booked to play a pub night for SAP earlier this school year, but failed to show up the evening of. This was noted as his make-up show to the club, who had originally planned to take legal action against him for breeching the contract signed between the two organizations. He took the stage for a half hour starting at midnight, to the delight of the crowd.

Also playing were DJ Kamran and DJ Niki the Kid, the latter who took most of the playing time on stage although not the most well-liked.

"I thought this would be much better" said Jassi Brar, a student. "I had high expectations, but they obviously disappeared. It wasn't what I expected, compared with the last SAA pub. However, there's high spirits and that's making it a good night."

Altogether, $500 was raised to go towards tsunami relief efforts, $1 from every ticket purchased. The SAA has further plans to raise money for the disaster victims by running events on campus in the near future.

With files from Johanna Kristolaitis

Employers seek students to work

Continued from front page

Hundreds of students passed through the displays during the day, some applicants even received on the spot interviews from prospective employers.

"There's a lot of interest in this event, we've had calls from all of these companies looking to come to this and we're happy with the turnout of employers today" commented Heather Hines, events and outreach coordinator for the UTM Career Centre. "These companies all really like our campus, some are even doing interviews on the spot with students because they are so impressed with them and they want to grab people for the summer as soon as possible."

Many of the positions available were seasonal as opposed to possible permanent placements; including jobs at places such as summer camps, tour groups and city parks and recreation departments.

"We're here to promote the City of Toronto and some of the many jobs we have available for students that are seasonal" said Frances Luchitta, recruitment coordinator for the West District of Toronto. "We have all kinds of positions, including lifeguards, camp counselors, specialty instructors, fitness instructors and other such positions that we hope to fill."

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Applications are also available at the front desk of the J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House at 21 King's College Circle during normal business hours.

For further information, please contact Sarah Styler at (416) 946-3041 or sarah.styler@utoronto.ca

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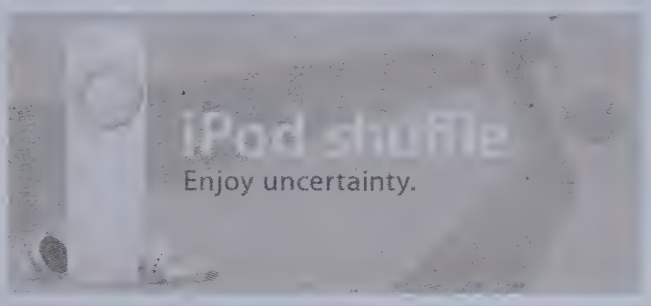

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EDITORIAL

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Varsity Arena Blues

EDITORIAL

Have you ever felt like the U of T doesn't give a shit about you? Have you ever felt like you are just a number to them? I think it's safe to say that just about everyone at this school has, at one time or another, felt shafted by it and powerless to do anything about it. Many of us feel that way on a regular basis. Last Friday, the U of T made me feel like a number, but not the usual student number I'm made to feel like. Nope, I felt like the number 26, and nothing but the number 26. The exact same number 26 that adorns the back of my hockey jersey. Let me explain...

I play in a U of T intramural ice hockey league. Last Friday my team played our first game of the 2005 season. We finished third in our division last fall, and our first game pitted us against the division champs from last year, so we knew from the start it would be an uphill battle. When everyone was dressed and the ice had been flooded, both teams jumped onto the ice and into their warm ups. I should tell you that Varsity Arena referees restrict warm-ups to five minutes or less. Fifteen minutes after both teams had taken to the ice, the referees appeared from hiding somewhere off the rink and began the game.

The game was a relatively even one. The opposition Pharmacy team scored first and held the lead into the second period when Fiji (my team) tied it up. With two minutes remaining in the final period, Pharmacy netted the go-ahead goal on an odd man rush. Fiji responded as best we could. With less than a minute to play, we pulled our goalie and gained possession deep in Pharmacy's zone. With our whole bench standing and our six best skaters pressing, Fiji sat as poised to even the score as any hockey team can hope to be in our situation. For several magical seconds, our players out-passed and out-played the Pharmacy defense and a tying goal seemed almost inevitable.

At that very moment, when the tension in the arena was so thick it could be felt, a referee's whistle was blown. 27.4 seconds remain on the clock. Players from both teams searched for the source of the whistle. There was no offside, no icing, no penalty, and no injury. The referees had called the game with 27.4 seconds to go. Final score: Pharmacy 2, Fiji 1. The reason for ending the match with 27.4 seconds remaining? The time was 10 p.m., and the refs said that all games must be ended when the clock hits the hour.

The rule at Varsity Arena is this: a game will be called if the clock hits the hour before the time in the game expires. The reason for ending the game early is to prevent subsequent games from running late. If a game is started on time, the game time will run out before the clock hits the next hour. If a game were to start on time, the rule is a fair one, because only the unruly conduct of players would delay a game until the hour changes. But what happens when the referees are ten minutes late? What happens when the referees are ten minutes late, the difference in score is one goal, the loosing team has the extra attacker with possession of the puck in the opposition zone and only 27.4 seconds remain on the clock? What happens then? I'll tell you what happens then...they call the game. Why? Because the arena is owned and governed by the U of T, and they don't give a shit about the little guy.

I don't think anyone - except for athletes subjected to a similar outrage - can truly understand the violent frustration that such a call creates within a team. We could have tied the game. We could have lost the game. Anything or nothing could have happened, but we'll never know what could have happened because the referees at Varsity Stadium said there was not enough time to play out the remaining 27.4 seconds. The referees said this not because they wanted to, but because, as employees of the U of T, they have been instructed to end a game when the clock hits the hour, regardless of circumstance.

The actions by the Varsity staff are nothing more than a manifestation of the U of T's complete lack of concern for the little guy. It sounds like a cliché political slogan but it is true; the U of T could not care less about how satisfied the lowly undergrad is with their services. U of T is concerned with numbers, big numbers, like the tuition you pay them. But the university doesn't care for little numbers. Not for student numbers like 991554230, not for player numbers like 26, and certainly not for time remaining numbers like 27.4.

Till next time...

Adrian Barek

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Issue 16 of 26 The last ten countdown begins NOW Some interesting mishaps to start the day. First our network doesn't work and Medium 4 is acting like a prissy little bitch. Is it the port? The cable? The network card? What the fuck? Thanks to Mike for his help on that. In the process of fixing the network I broke a desk and almost went crashing out the big glass window overlooking the student centre. Had I done that at least we'd some solid news for Julie to write about. People are sending me editorials mere hours before our deadline some advance notice people! Julie is here and looking like her usual black ninja self. Some random guy just sauntered into our office with a laptop computer in one hand and a beer in the other. WTF ? Julie is having a cat crisis. I wish I could help ya! Rene is a gentleman and saves Julie from her cat crisis. Sadly, he could not save us from the drunk guy wandering around the student centre with beer and pizza. Added a carpet to the office today much thicker than I remember it being. Andrea seems in a bad mood cheer up! That is all, ten to go!

Media coverage of tsunamis takes donations away from other causes

There is so much being done now for tsunami relief, it seems as if all the other desperate causes in the world have been pushed completely aside. I don't mean to sound heartless, but there are lots of other things that need our attention not instead but in addition to this. There are things that have needed our attention for a long time and have continually been ignored.

It's a shame that people can give such a huge response to an event like this which happens once every couple of hundred years or so (at least, of this magnitude), while forgetting about problems that are continuously yielding more fatalities or have yielded far more fatalities, like the homeless here in Canada or those dying of AIDS in Africa. Someone said it is probably because of the excessive media attention devoted to this event. This is entirely possible: How many people remember Rwanda, Darfur, or Somalia? Who has heard about Zimbabwe, Mozambique and the Congo? (A thousand people die in the Congo daily of starvation.) True, Darfur got about a week of media attention, but still the donations were nothing compared to this. Fundraising efforts for the Iran earthquake last year were very disappointing, due to the lack of response, many people now don't even know what you're talking about when you speak of the Bam Fortress.

Maybe it's the fact that the tsunami is a product of nature, while wars and famines very often have a root in human activity. But does that make the latter any less horrifying? I would think just the opposite, that those suffering at the hands of their peers for no conceivable reason other than tribe or race or religion need our support and our attention all the more. At least, these are problems with known causes, with known roots, and could potentially be eradicated.

The speed with which the Canadian government responded, the lack of discussion about allocating funds to the tsunami and also the sheer amount of money going to South Asia is incredible - I'm sure many other countries would appreciate and would deserve the same. I'm sure many other countries would appreciate the same sort of debt suspension that South Asia has received. Africa, a continent continuously ravaged by war, famine and disease is, in my opinion, in a far more desperate situation. Many countries on the continent are millions and billions of dollars in debt, yet are unable to pay it off, because their government is corrupt, or because the economy is insufficient to support both the population and debt, because there is no real economy due to war, or because these people are too busy dying of AIDS. But I suppose it's alright, isn't it, since they've been dying for centuries, they've been at war for centuries, they've been full of disease for centuries, so what are a few more years?

But I wonder how those people in Africa feel right now, seeing all this money going to South Asia - they've needed our help and our resources and our attention for so long, and have been asking for it for so long with no response. And now, with no questions, no debate, no arguments, money and aid are flowing, almost instantly, to South Asia. How would you feel, if for so many years you'd seen people dying around you of famine and of disease and of sheer human cruelty, with no response - and suddenly this aid that you need and want so desperately to rebuild your country and your future are redirected, in the blink of an eye, somewhere else? There is a certain form of racism that consists of ignorance only... and Africa has been ignored for far too long.

So just think of how much money is going to South Asia, and how many other places of suffering are being left by the way-side. I know it's not a numbers game, but it's something to keep in mind. Maybe some of our compassion can be redirected towards places that have long been ignored, instead of waiting for the next unpredictable natural disaster. I think that it is extremely important that we do not lose sight of all the other charities that are ongoing and still need huge amounts of our time, efforts and resources.

Sincerely,

Izanda Svilans

Hype Pub, Same Club

After attending Eclipse, a joint event by the South Asian Alliance (SAA) and Style and Profyle (SAP), I was blown away. Great music, good looking people, and heck; DJ Starting from Scratch showed up. Style and Profyle tried to bring him to UTM last year. When he didn't show up one club executive even had the audacity to tell those in attendance that they'd 'sue his ass'. A UTM club suing a private enterprise, are you serious?

Fast-forward a few months, SAP and SAA come together. Starting from Scratch is returning, this time under the banner of SAA with SAP joining. The event is pulled off and a good time by all is had except me...well kinda.

A certain SAP member asked if a DJ at VIBE 91.9 had the opportunity to interview Starting from Scratch. The opportunity existed; Scratch was to meet with this DJ prior to the pub night, however time constraints created a problem. Starting from Scratch said he would love to help out someone with the same passion he has for 'spinning' and to call him Monday morning. After hearing this the SAP executive promptly laughed and sneered, saying that was probably not true. To my utter dismay and disgust I walked away. This type of representation of a club is not needed. With that, Style and Profyle is no more. Stupid and Petty is what I will refer to them for the rest of the year. It's time for SAP to look at the big picture. Thanks for a great time, SAA.

Sunny Pathak

Martin Luther King Jr. - The Message of Hope

Today, we celebrate the man, the mystery, the power, the eloquence, the compassion, and the unwavering commitment to justice of Martin Luther King Jr. Undeniable is the impact that he had in directing a civil rights movement built on the foundation of love, justice, truth, and compassion for fellow man. His life may have been snuffed out early, but his message reigns eternally. During a time where suffering reigns, violence is rampant, and catastrophes heavily afflict the global community, his message should be the manual that we use for healing, for rebuilding, and for strengthening bonds within the global family.

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." As we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, let us remember our suffering family in Asia, in Eastern Congo, in Sudan, in Iraq, and in Afghanistan. In Eastern Congo, 1000 people lose their lives every day to hatred, disease and starvation. That's a tsunami every four months. In Darfur Sudan, horrific atrocities afflict entire villages and communities. In South Africa thousands lose their lives to AIDS. Humanitarian aid has failed to reach these communities. Cameras no longer capture images of their suffering. Reporters no longer sensationalise their stories. We can neither forget nor abandon our suffering brothers and sisters. We must mobilize, speak out, and take action. Let us embrace the Martin Luther King philosophy of fighting against injustice and embracing the concerns of all humanity. For "in the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

For those of us blessed to live in Canada, free from the horror of rape, genocide, starvation, disease, and civil war, our responsibility is clear. Let us hold dear in our hearts our brothers and sisters lost in devastating tsunamis, in horrific wars, in heart-breaking starvation, and in dehumanizing genocides. But let not our remembrance be characterised by hopeless inaction. While mourning the loss of members of the human family, let us not forget the ones who are still with us. The orphaned child uncertain of his future, the widowed mother with no means by which to feed her children, and the despondent father who has lost everything he spent his life building are the responsibility of each and every one of us. To bring back hope and rebuild faith in humanity should be everyone's objective, everyone's New Year's resolution.

So send a package of hope to an orphaned child, send a small cheque to charity, volunteer at your local crisis centre, give a hot meal to a homeless man. Do anything, no matter how small, to make a difference. If every one of us touched one life, injected hope into a lost soul, or fed a starving child, the world would change. Do you need to be rich, powerful, or educated to change the world? Not according to Martin Luther King Jr. who proclaimed that "everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Fatima Sheikh

All quotes by Martin Luther King Jr.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Crowd listens to Tom Wolfe discuss his new book and more

BY JOHN ARMSTRONG

On December 14, Tom Wolfe appeared at Convocation Hall for a greatly anticipated reading from his new work of fiction, *I am Charlotte Simmons*. With Ian Brown acting as host and moderator for the evening, topics of discussion ranged from rap music and "dormcest" (sleeping with somebody in one's own dormitory) to the prevalence of what Wolfe terms the "ubiquitous Fuck Patois" speech on North American college campuses.

Although he looked a little frail and tired from the constant travel during this latest promotional tour, Wolfe nevertheless turned out dressed in his trademark double-breasted white suit, azure shirt and a natty navy and white pinstripe rep tie. When asked by Brown about his dazzling outfit, Wolfe explained that his dandyism initially arose from the desire to goad critics who believed that writers ought to be slovenly and poorly dressed at all times.

Acceptance of his style and philosophy was undeniable amongst the sizeable crowd that arrived on a bitterly cold night to hear the man that almost single-handedly defined the sixties for an entire generation. It was more love-in than book reading, and Wolfe reciprocated by intoning a juicy passage from his novel and titillating the audience with anecdotes drawn from his months of research in colleges and fraternities in the U.S.

Those familiar with Wolfe's fiction and non-fiction work would have recognized many of the themes and motifs that he has obsessed over in the past. *I am Charlotte Simmons* continues his ongoing fascination with youth culture, his attention to language idioms and slang and, of course, his commentary on status, class and the power struggles between peers.

The literary feud that was triggered a few years ago in Toronto when John Irving railed against Wolfe on Evan Solomon's televised literary show "Hot Type" once again made an appearance. Apparently the fur is still flying over that particular spat, with both Norman Mailer and John Updike weighing in and Wolfe rebutting the three lit giants at various times in the media. Wolfe reserved his most stinging comments for Irving, describing Irving's *A Widow for One Year* as "a book in which the four main characters never seem to be able to leave the house."

It was interesting to note that the audience attending the reading was overwhelmingly composed of admirers who were well beyond their fourth decade and who were almost all Caucasian. This seems odd for a writer who has spent a lifetime as a class warrior documenting the activities of young people and who has consistently taken on the issue of race in America in an intelligent way. It seems that despite his unconventional style and boundless energy, Wolfe has failed to find a readership amongst the alphabet generations. If *I am Charlotte Simmons* is as well received as his last book, it could expand his fan base beyond his baby boomer loyalists. Watch for a review in an upcoming issue of *The Medium*.

Take a trip to long ago

BY SCOTT PIETRANGELO

Nothing will ever hinder the magic of Medieval Times. Not even when they skimp out on the fun complimentary flags or programs. Not even when they take a few liberties with their menu. No, not even when they neglect to keep open their Royal Quest, in which you can take part in fun medieval challenges, like firing cannons at castle walls, pulling yourself across a moat, and walking across a wooden plank amidst swinging axes. No matter what they do, you still get lost in the spectacle from the moment you enter the Great Hall. You can't help it.

I'm sure that the beginning of January is a slow time for the people at Medieval Times. Only two rows of each section were filled when I attended, but each of those two rows cheered mightily for their respective knight. Even when our own Yellow Knight took a sword in the gut, we continued to cheer for our allies in the remaining battles. It was too entertaining to pass up.

We all need to shout out, let loose and go nuts from time to time. With the loss of hockey this year, many of us are left with no one to root for. I say who better to cheer on than gallant knights as you are whisked back into the Dark Ages? A dose of Medieval Times could cure anyone of their lack of cheer, even if only for a little while.

So if you have the time and a little extra cash, go back to a time of "splendor, pageantry and romance" where "swords clash and axes ring as one Knight seeks the title of Champion."

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Heiress confesses to fun

Book Review
Confessions of an Heiress

By Roberta Baker

Whatever Paris Hilton's job is, it's fair to say she is successful at it, judging by the amount of attention she gets. As a young socialite and heir to the Hilton Hotel fortune, she uses her name and she's not ashamed to admit it. In her first book, *Confessions of an Heiress*, she exaggerates the media persona of her as a living Barbie. So how is Paris Hilton as a writer? Most of the book is colourful pictures of her posing on red carpets and with other celebrities, however the text portion is clever and cheeky.

She claims the intent of the book is to "give you a sneak peek into my very hyped life—so you can know the real me." Well, the real her is a love of family, fashion, and boys. There are even instructions on how to be an heiress: "Never, ever wake up before ten, never go to bed before three. Normal hours are for normal people. You never want to be normal. Anyone can be normal. How boring. I'm yawning." Also, "Change your hairstyle all the time," and "Never drink diet soda. It shows you have no nerve." She also name-drops her favourite designers, products, stores, clubs, hair stylists, and makeup artists.

Paris rants about several aspects of her privileged life: "Some people might say I'm a hypocrite because I eat burgers but won't wear fur. My response to that is this: Heiresses don't need to be consistent." There are also little gems like, "Having a flight attendant spill something on you can totally ruin your flight. It's like, 'Hello, I don't want to fly five hours smelling like orange juice.'"

Do we learn anything new about Paris from the book? Well, sort of. It does show a side of Paris that is self-critical (she showcases her fashion mistakes in one chapter). It's also apparent that she has a sense of humour and is self-aware of her media image. She admits to reading all the stuff written about her and reiterates throughout that she doesn't really take her lifestyle that seriously.

She actually seems to have a positive and driven outlook on life, which is refreshing considering all the young pop singers and actresses who have the 'poor me' syndrome and complain in their songs about getting too much attention. Paris lives for the attention. She also seems to 'get' the media thing: if people read a few things about you in the gossip columns, there will be a need to know more. She also writes, "If there's one thing I've learned, it's this: People need to believe your life is better than theirs."

From one perspective, Paris is just an entrepreneur who has used her status to her advantage to get into acting, singing and modeling. The book makes subtle references to the infamous sex scandal, but tries to steer clear, focusing more on how important her family is to her, and how she's not the party girl that the press makes her out to be. *Confessions* is a fun piece of disposable pop culture. It is superficial, but it knows it, which makes it fun.

CD Review
Kutless
Sea of Faces

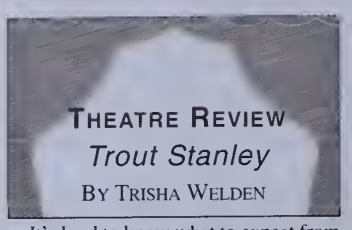
By Karen Sue

Like many of my friends, I had never heard of **Kutless**, a five-member Christian rock band straight out of Oregon. After finding their CD *Sea of Faces* in *The Medium*'s music bin, however, and hearing the first track "Not What You See," I thought *Hey, this ain't half bad. It has a good beat.*

Having now listened to the rest of their album, my initial impression has not changed: it ain't half bad. It's not my favourite album of the year, but it has some catchy tracks, as well as some unmemorable songs. Unlike the stereotypical perception of Christian rock, Kutless is not afraid of using visually shocking lyrics. Here's a little excerpt from track six, titled "Passion": "Nail pierced hands they run with blood\ A splitting brow forced by the thorns\ His face is writhing with the pain yet it's comforting to me." I think they're talking about Jesus. Even for a non-Christian like me, that is some heavy stuff.

For what it's worth, if you're into strong instrumentals, visual lyrics and a good old Christian rockin' time, I say Kutless is worth checking out.

Catch this fishy comedy



It's hard to know what to expect from a play called *Trout Stanley*. What kind of a name is *Trout Stanley* anyway? "A fish name," we're told during an early scene in this new comedy by Claudia Dey, now playing at Factory Theatre. This three-person play revolves around twin sisters who look nothing alike, a disheveled drifter who comes their way on their birthday, and suspicions surrounding a Scrabble champ stripper's disappearance.

Sugar and Grace Ducharme are residents of a small community in northern B.C. Sugar parades around the house all day in her late mother's track suit; Grace runs the local dump (she took over from her father after both their parents died ten years ago). Sugar hides from the world while Grace makes her mark on it as a local beauty. They share their eccentricities through sisterly routine and rituals. Trout Stanley makes a well-timed visit to Sugar while Grace is at work; it's the sisters' 30th birthday, and nothing will ever be the same.

Dey, Factory's playwright-in-residence, writes in a captivating fusion of poetry and realistic speech. Her repetitious dialogue is full of moving images and dark humour. The characters are extraordinary, barely believable yet undoubtedly real at heart. They spout their own versions of their lives, creating nearly mythological narratives for themselves, full of purpose, destiny and truth. As we learn more about the past of these three strange people, we begin to understand and enjoy their quirky personalities.

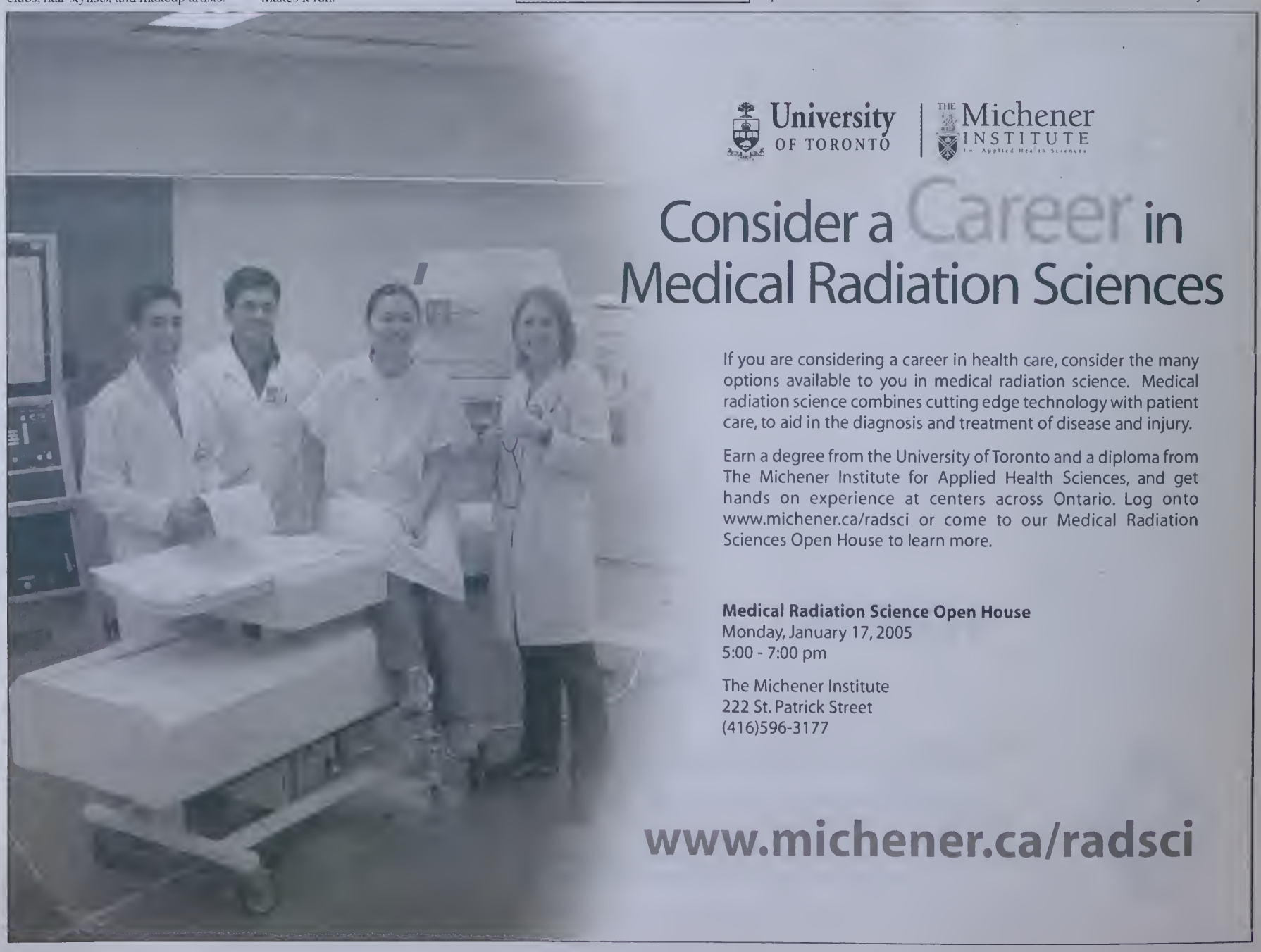
Melody A. Johnson (Sugar), Michelle Giroux (Grace) and Gord Rand (Trout) play off each other throughout each delightful scene, a fabulous example of excellent ensemble work. The dialogue is never lost despite its often rapid-fire delivery, only occasionally over the laughter from the audience.

The actors shine individually in their roles as well. Rand balances the line between sweet and scary, particularly in his detailed account of his personal history. Johnson displays Sugar's inner strength as clearly as her social and emotional awkwardness. Giroux combines masculinity and femininity in unconventional doses to give us the bold yet still insecure Grace. Each has amazing moments of tragedy and humour, sometimes in the same line. Director Eda Holmes surely deserves some of the credit.

The detailed set and costumes (designed by Kelly Wolf) and the varied use of lighting (designed by Andrea Lundy) add to the beauty of the show. Even when the characters start to cross the believability line (more due to the poetic language than the acting), the minutia of the world on stage helps ground the story in a reality, from the light in the fridge to the three locks in the front door to the gradually growing glow in the sky backdrop throughout certain scenes. The sound (designed by Rick Sacks) wasn't as complementary, occasionally drawing me out of the stage action and wondering why such sounds were chosen for those moments. I didn't come up with an answer.

Overall, this play is an entertaining dark comedy that will mean something different to each person that sees it. If you're at all a fan of dark and bizarre comedy, or enjoy hearing good writing well-delivered, consider catching *Trout Stanley*.

For more info: www.factorytheatre.ca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FEATURES

Picture of the Week: "Lislehurst"

BY ALEEF ESMAIL

Refuse to Dance

By Manuela Anamaria Rotar

Refuse to dance and away you'll scatter,
Into the obscure, obnoxious world of the empowered;
And if you'll ever glance back into the distance,
With lost memories you shall be showered.

If the first step is not taken when the crossroads branch,
The dance shall interrupt,
As your heart has been split in half
By the rocky breeze of time.

Do not turn around, or ever look back
Foundations assembled on regret shatter in the distance.
Take a step forward and build your own path,
Leave your steps behind, for those who cannot dance.

Early Bird

By Mateus Kusiba

Bluebird calls out
In the morning
Sings out to the blue sky
a hundred bugs just sit
As dawn listens

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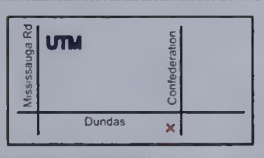

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Creative Writing...

What the $@#&%!

By Nerrad Evorglens

When I woke up this morning, I quickly realized someone had stolen my eyes. They were exact duplicates except, now I see eberything differently. My skin colour has veen glued on with sticky tape and someone replaced my natibe tongue with an English implant. For all intents and purposes, I'm now a white guy.

Perhaps you're wondering how the fuck something like this could happen. I'm not sure myself. I'm typing this out on a calculator. I can see the code. Numbers equal letters, but somehow the b and v are lost in translation: real world problems. Thank god for zero.

Sorry, I had to stop writing. My girlfriend lost her cat. She asked me how I could stop the cat from running away. I suggested cutting off one of her legs. Now my girlfriend is mad. She likes the cat's legs the way they are.

"Okay," I said, "but she's going to keep running away on you." The alternative is to stop caring. Either one will do. Some people don't habe good provlem solbing avilities. Any provlem can be solbed quickly and easily if you reduce it enough.

Racism: eye remobal.

Hunger: kill some people.

Taxes: kill the gobernment.

Overpopulation: castration at virth.

See, no more provlems.

Ooops, had to fix that provlem with the b, er, problem with the v.

There we go.

Jesus, people just don't think about shit.

Like, one 1 is 1, but two 1's are two or eleven...whatever.

The Greeks had a problem with it to...two...too.

Three two's is six or two hundred and twenty two. It's a good thing they figured out the number thing. Now everything is crystal xlear.

So I get up. My body is pudding. That's just a metaphor.

I make coffee. Such a misnomer. I didn't make it. I assembled it. It was already made. The sun made it. The sun makes everything. Food is a plant. Meat was a plant. Oil was a plant. There you go. Nothing new.

Eat it. Barbeque it. Combust it. It's sunlight.

We are fruit flies in a jar.

Closed system, sunlight, food source, exponential growth, level off, decline.

There it is.

The rise and fall of the species.

No muss, no fuss, just inevitability...with a v and a b.

So the water is boiling. 100°C. Actually, that's the definition.

I open the sliding sheet-of-melted-sand door. The air is slow and by that I mean cold. I could probably talk like this forever if I had infinite knowledge but alas, my knowledge is limited therefore we will speak in binary from now on...just kidding, I don't know binary. It consists of something and nothing. Where is the flavour?

By the window, the chlorophyll is sucking up all the other colours so my plants are screaming lime green at me. They're so happy to be...green. Like Kermit the frog, looking for the rainbow connection.

I move the kettle to another burner. 790nm of light penetrates my head. I turn it off. The light continues for a while then subsides.

Mornings are always so soupy. I've got Campbell's Chunky warming in my brain pan. Should probably get that checked.

Do you smell burning toast?

Fiction...

The Everlasting Price

By Afshan Makhani

At long last I conjured up the great wish demons, the ancient creatures that many long for but few find and those that do become legends. Here, at last, they stood before me.

"What is your wish?" the leader demanded.

"I wish to be famous like Mozart, Beethoven, and Alexander the Great," I cried against the howling winds. "And I wish to be immortal."

"State your age," the leader's voice boomed.

"Twenty-five."

"Very well," the leader began. "The price is high..."

"I'll take it!" I dismissed his advice.

The leader nodded and his minions handed me a parchment that I signed with blood.

Two years later I accomplished great things but not as great as I had expected. As well, I experienced problems such as headaches, dizziness, and extreme emotional sensitivity. But as I looked out at the night from the verandah of my new palatial home I simply assumed that this was the price "great" people had to pay.

All of a sudden, the wish demons were back!

"We are adding the finishing touch to your wish," the leader informed me. His minions grabbed me and threw me into a coffin that had magically appeared out of nowhere. I screamed as their strong hands closed the coffin lid but no one could hear me. Upon feeling the coffin drop into the ground I tried clawing my way out but could not.

"My time has not come! How can this be?" I screamed. "I wished to live forever! I cannot die!"

Suddenly, the coffin lid flew open and my body was struck with paralysis. Carrying a bundle of my greatest works in his left arm like a newborn baby, the leader looked down at me slyly from six feet above and leaped into my grave. "You're wrong, my child," he whispered into my ear. "Your life has only begun." Then silence, followed by darkness, engulfed me as the coffin lid closed.

SAC UTM winterfest/05
Jan 17-21

MONDAY
Noon - 2: Toonie Pizza + Pop (Student Centre)
Noon - 2: Eating Competitions (Student Centre)
2 - 4: Fear Factor (Student Centre)
5 - 9: Casino Nite Presentation Room

TUESDAY
11 - 5: Sumo wrestling, jousting, obstacle course (Student Centre)
11-5: Candy Carnival: Cotton Candy, Cake, Chocolates, etc. (Student Centre)
7 - 10 pm: Open Mike Night @ the BDP (with Sabrina Jalees)

WEDNESDAY
10 - 5 : Eid Bazaar (Student Centre)
Noon - 3: Hot Chocolate + Taffy
Noon - 3: Tobaggoning (South Building Hill)
Scavengar Hunt
6pm - 9pm: X - Box Tournament (Presentation Room)

THURSDAY
Noon - 2: Cheap Food
11 - 1: Singles Foozball Tournament
1 - 3: Doubles Foozball Tournament
Obstacle Course
10 pm Onwards: Summerfest Pub (Luau)

FRIDAY
11 - 1: Collateral
1 - 3: The Grudge
3 - 5: The Final Cut
5 - 7: Old School

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An Alternative...

Open Adoption

BY KALPANA SRINARAYANADAS

Unplanned pregnancies are a prevalent and serious issue for young adults today. In 2000, Statistics Canada reported 12,754 teen pregnancies (ages 15-19) in Ontario. Getting pregnant at a young age can be terrifying for young mothers and fathers. It is important to know your options and what services are available to you.

Countless young mothers choose to give their babies up for adoption. This can be a hard decision because in most situations the birth mother may never see her child again. However, one type of adoption, the Open Adoption, is becoming increasingly popular because it allows birth mothers and adoptive parents to outline visitation terms together. For example, the birth mother may visit her biological child once a month or write the child letters every year.

Through the Open Adoption process adoptive parents receive their child anywhere from six months to a few years. Firstly, a person wishing to adopt must visit an open adoption agency such as Cornerstone Adoption Agency in Toronto. Secondly, they must complete documents regarding their occupation, medical history and other related information. The birthmother is asked what type of family she wants to place her child with. From there, the agency gathers a list of families that fit the criteria and presents the list to the birthmother. The birthmother then reads through the files of the various families and meets with a few of them to determine if they are right for her baby. The adoptive parents and birthmother may discuss the type of arrangement that would occur if they were to agree to an open adoption. Subsequently, the birthmother makes a decision and picks a family she feels is right for her baby.

What sets Open Adoption apart from other options is the agreement made between the adoptive parents and the birthmother. Traditional adoption does not allow the birthmother to contact her child after she gives up her child. Adoptive parents may allow their children to contact their birthparents, but sometimes the children feel neglected by their biological parents and often choose not to seek them out. Open adoption allows birthparents to stay in contact with their child and be a part of their lives as they grow up. The birthmother still has the freedom to follow her dreams and ambitions, but is also assured that her child is in good hands. Christine Capewell, Director of Business Services at UTM, is one of the many people choosing open adoption over traditional adoption. Capewell's agreement with the birthmother consists of a minimum of three visits a year. Capewell is just one of the many new parents happy and overjoyed with their decision to go with open adoption.

"It was a little scary at first, as all new things are, but it has turned out great," said Capewell in a recent interview.

She also recommends open adoption to young mothers looking for alternatives. Open adoption is a great option for someone facing an unplanned pregnancy, and who is just not in a good situation to be a parent and doesn't know what to do.

Open adoption is so popular today that ABC's 20/20 recently aired a story on a young woman trying to decide which family was right for her child. 20/20's cameras followed her as the birth mother interviewed the families and made her final decision.

Open adoption remains a controversial issue. Many argue that the child may be confused by the situation and feel torn between the two families. However, many adoptive parents and birthmothers are happy with their situation.

"It was the best way to adopt," said Capewell, "We wanted to make [the] process as comfortable and non-stressful as possible for them and we knew that knowing about their birthparents and having some contact with them from the start would be the best way to do that."

Open adoption gives young mothers the chance to give their children a comfortable, loving home with a family she trusts, and still provide their children with love and affection. There are many agencies and websites out there that provide valuable information and testimonials from birthmothers and adoptive parents. For more information visit these sites:

www.openadoption.ca
www.adoptionoptions.com
www.adoptionbychoice.ab.ca

Humble

By Nerrad Evorglens

When I was younger, I thought I knew all the questions. I thought there wasn't a question I hadn't thought of. Whenever someone asked me something, I thought; 'I've thought of that before,' and therefore it was already thought of so it didn't need anymore thinking about and I was proud.

When I was a little older I thought I knew all the answers. I thought there wasn't an answer I hadn't thought of or read about. Whenever someone asked me something, I thought; 'I know the answer to that,' and therefore it was already answered so I didn't have to talk about it and I was proud.

As I get even older I realize that I don't have all the answers. There are very few questions out there that I know the answer to. Whenever someone asks me something, I think; 'I don't really know the answer to that,' so I don't know what to say and most of the time I think; ' I don't even understand the question' and now I am humble.

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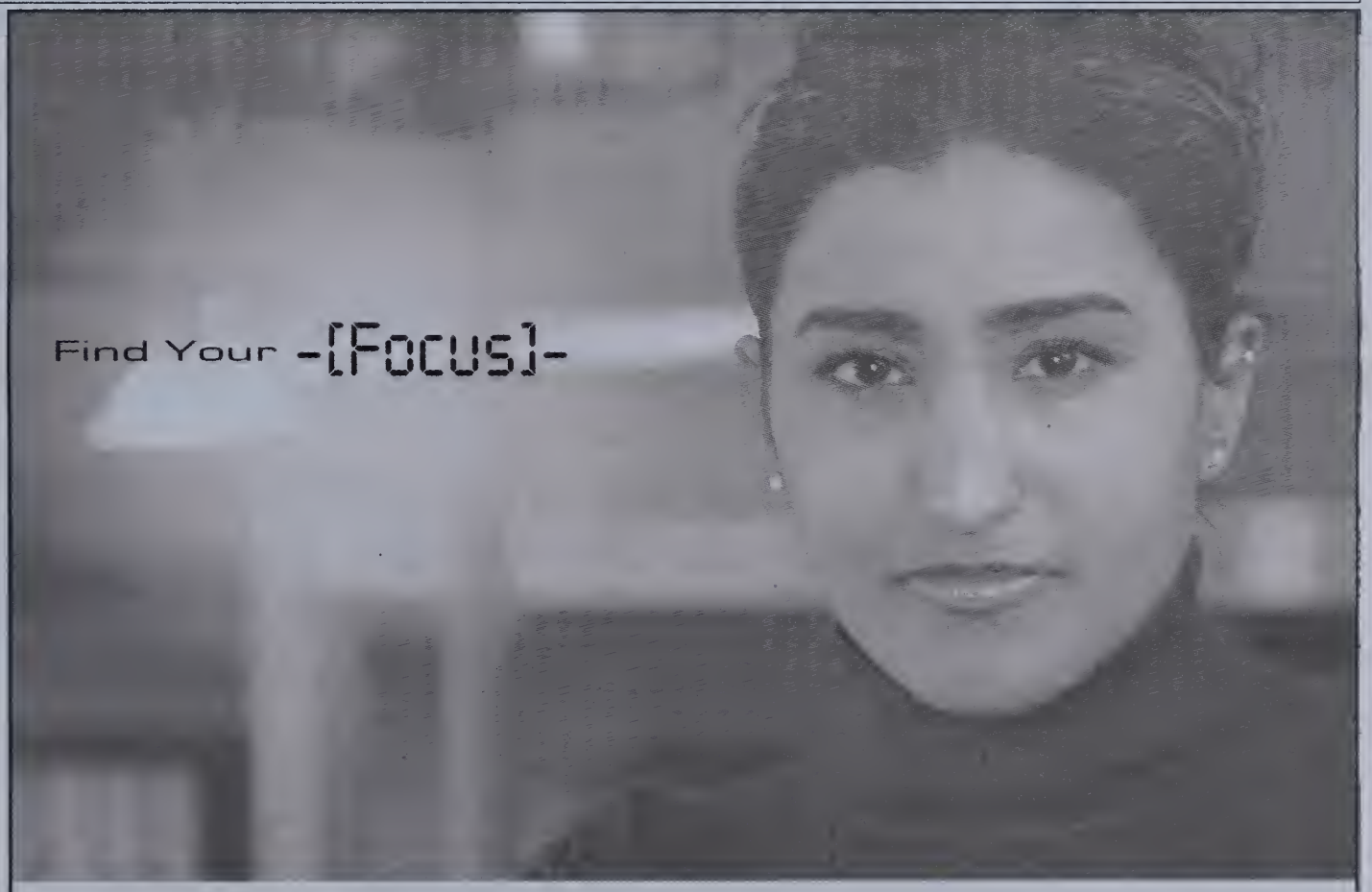

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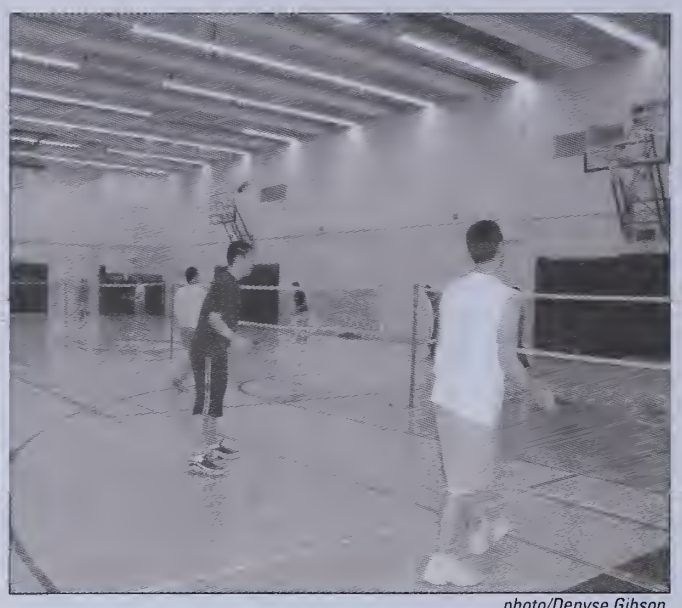

photo/Denyse Gibson

A pair of badminton players await a serve from their opposition in a competition match played in the South Building gym last Friday.

Women's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	Loses	Ties	Ranking
Basketball Division 1	0	0	0	TBA
Basketball Division 2	0	0	0	TBA
Basketball Tri-Campus	0	0	0	TBA
Indoor Soccer Division 1	0	0	0	TBA
Indoor Soccer Division 2	0	0	0	TBA
Volleyball Division 1	0	0	0	TBA
Volleyball Division 2	1	0	0	TBA
Volleyball Tri-Campus	0	0	0	TBA
Lacrosse	0	0	0	TBA
Ice Hockey	1	0	0	TBA

Men's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	Loses	Ties	Ranking
Basketball Division 1	0	0	0	TBA
Basketball Division 2	0	0	0	TBA
Indoor Soccer Division 1	0	0	0	TBA
Indoor Soccer Division 2	0	0	0	TBA
Volleyball Div 1	1	0	0	TBA
Volleyball Div 2	1	0	0	TBA
Ice Hockey	1	0	0	TBA
IceHockey Tri-Campus	0	0	1	TBA
Lacrosse	1	0	0	TBA
Waterpolo	0	0	0	TBA

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Varsity Sports Report

Womens' hockey team sneaks by Western in OT

Varsity Blues: 1
Western Mustangs: 0

By Adrian Barek

The hockey match played at Varsity Arena last Saturday night can be defined by three words, "Dump and chase." As U of T Varsity Blues Womens' hockey team played host to the visiting Western Mustangs, all either team seemed able to generate offensively was a dump followed by a chase followed by a dump followed by a chase and so on. Shots on goal were few and far between, and odd-woman rushes were non-existent.

Despite the lack of exciting rushes, the game was well played by both teams. The Varsity Blues are ranked ninth in the country for womens' hockey, but the Mustangs are not in the top ten. Despite the difference in rankings, both teams played a strict defensive game.

Between the two blue lines many turn-overs were seen as both teams stuck pretty well to their conservative game plans. Passing was particularly effective for the Blues, but Western was quick to engage each and every puck carrier.

Fans from both teams made their presence known, most notably by a large man with a snare drum and an air horn cheering for the home team. Western was not to be outdone, however, as the rowdiness of their fans stood in sharp contrast to their minority number. As well as the rowdy fans, a Rogers television crew was on hand to broadcast the game live on the local cable channel.

Three periods and sixty minutes elapsed with no goals for either team, and with two minutes remaining in sudden death overtime, it appeared that nobody was going to ripple the mesh that night.

With the clock ticking down, the Varsity Blues broke away quickly from their defensive end with a 2 on 1 rush through the neutral zone. The Western defender did her best to cover the two rushing Blues, but a nifty move by the U of T puck carrier managed to evade the checking defender. Crashing in all alone on the net, she took her shot and at first it appeared that the goalie had stopped it. Half an agonizing second later, with both benches on their feet, the red goal light flashed and the Blues team jumped into the air. The puck was partially stopped by the Western goalie, but had managed to trickle in under her pads to win the game for the U of T squad.

Performance enhancing drugs rampant in the sports world

BY MICHAEL SINGH

With the sports world becoming increasingly aware of the use of performance enhancing drugs, it has become obvious that changes have to be made in the testing and punishing of athletes using these drugs. Last Thursday, Major League Baseball (MLB) stepped forward and began their crackdown on drug use by introducing a new steroid policy. Baseball has been at the forefront of the steroid scandal over the last year, as big name players like Jason Giambi and Barry Bonds have admitted to using performance enhancing drugs. The MLB hopes their new policy will be a step in the right direction in trying to deter and eventually stop players from using steroids and other drugs. The question remains, however, just what types of drugs athletes use to enhance their ability?

Anabolic steroids were one of the first drugs used by players and their use continues to this day in various forms. These drugs have changed over the years as they try to mask themselves from drug tests but the effects of the drug remain the same. Anabolic steroids promote muscle building by using synthetic modifications of testosterone to increase your body's ability to strengthen muscle. Testosterone in the body helps to grow and strengthen muscle. By increasing your body's amount of testosterone with anabolic steroids, you help increase your muscle size. These steroids also help your body recover from a hard workout more quickly by reducing the amount of muscle damage that occurs during the session. This can be very helpful to athletes. While these drugs have large ramifications on their users, such as liver abnormalities, tumors, aggressive behavior, rage, violent outbursts, and psychiatric disorders, athletes still use them to gain an edge on the competition.

Another drug used by athletes that is not banned in the new MLB policy is stimulants. Stimulants are drugs that can reduce fatigue, suppress appetite, and increase alertness and aggressiveness. These drugs can allow an athlete to train hard and regain their energy quickly for another training session. The stimulants used are much more potent than the caffeine found in coffee or pop and can do much more damage to the body. If stimulants are abused they can often result in heart palpitations, heart rhythm abnormalities and weight loss, among other things. Athletes often use these drugs because they are always on the go, traveling across country, staying up all day preparing for a game or working out. While these may not be as damaging as anabolic steroids they can still do a great deal of harm to the body.

One of the newer drugs being used in sports is human growth hormone (HGH). HGH is known to act upon many aspects of cellular metabolism, promoting muscle and tissue growth. HGH has also been used to help trim down body fat and turn that into muscle. HGH has become one of the toughest drugs to test for, since no test has been able to determine whether somebody is using a supplement to increase the amount of the hormone in their body. The World Anti-Doping Agency has come forward and stated they have devised a blood test for HGH, but experts still believe athletes can get away with using this supplement. HGH has been added to the list of banned substances in baseball, but MLB officials have said they will wait until a urine test is developed before testing for HGH. This defeats the purpose of banning HGH, since they can not test for use of the drug.

> Pro athletes are not the only ones using performance enhancing drugs. Steroid use in teenagers has increased over the years as well.

Pro athletes are not the only ones using performance enhancing drugs. Steroid use in teenagers has increased over the years as well. A survey done by The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in Michigan discovered some startling news about the use of steroids in high school. In 2003, 3.5% of 12th grade students in the survey admitted to using some type of steroid in their life. This is up from 2.5% when the same survey was given in 2000. That is a remarkable jump of one whole percent over the course of only three years. While you may think this is only going on in America, similar things are occurring right here in Canada. In late 2003, a report surfaced in Quebec that around half the players in the Canadian junior hockey were taking some type of banned substance. The pressure to perform and make it to the NHL could be one of the driving forces to taking these substances or it could be the league is to blame for not being more aware of drug use by their players.

At the forefront of the drug scandal over the past year is BALCO, a San Francisco laboratory where sports nutrition was created. Victor Conte is the head of BALCO and claims that he or his associates have helped to aid some of the world's most prominent athletes. Conte claims that he provided superstar Marion Jones with a drug called HGH, which helps to convert body fat to muscle, increase energy levels and helps growth of all major tissue in the body. Conte says that he watched the Olympic gold medalist inject herself with the drug in April of 2001. He also says her husband and Olympic gold medalist Tim Montgomery used this drug along with others like "the cream", a testosterone jell with effects like anabolic steroids. Montgomery went on to win Olympic gold and test negative for performance enhancing drugs, just like Jones.

The most well known athlete involved in the drug scandal is MLB's Barry Bonds. Bonds is on his way to breaking the all time homerun record but rumors continue to fly about steroid use. When Bonds' Grand Jury testimony was leaked the rumors were proven true, sort of. Bonds' admitted to using the substances known as the cream and the clear, an undetectable performance enhancing drug, but he claimed he used them without knowing they were steroids. Bonds claimed that his long time friend and trainer Greg Anderson, a friend of Victor Conte, gave him the drugs to help with his arthritis and fatigue. Bonds said he had no idea the drugs were illegal and if they were, he never would have used them. While many speculate that Bonds has been using these drugs for years, it still cannot be proved that Bonds knowingly used these drugs or any other performance enhancing drugs.

These stories of drug use by athletes can only lead to worse things occurring, likeas increased use of drugs by younger athletes, such as college athletes. These athletes are trying to prove themselves and make it to the major leagues and many will try using any means necessary. If these young athletes believe they can get an edge without being caught, what is going to stop them from taking advantage of this chance?

The culture of sports has taken on the idea of 'what have you done for me lately', nobody is thinking of the past or the future anymore. Athletes are taking drugs with no regard of what it will do their body in the future, they are playing for today and only today and this will result in many problems down the line. Nobody knows the long term effects of these new "designer" drugs like HGH, the cream or the clear, but nobody seems to care. If an athlete can get an edge that could result in increased pay or fame by winning a gold medal, they are going to take that chance because the pressure is on them to win. Therefore, what are the teenagers who are just starting to play organized sports going to think? Taking these drugs is okay because everybody is doing it; that is the way to get ahead in the sports world. Something needs to be done in the sports world to curb the use of performance enhancing drugs, or else usage will become widespread in the college game and even in high school sports.

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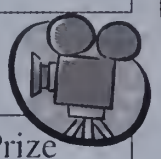

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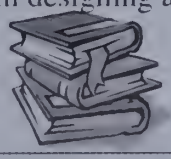

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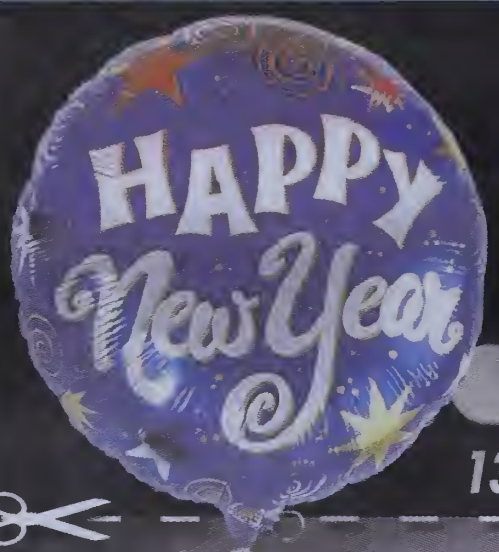

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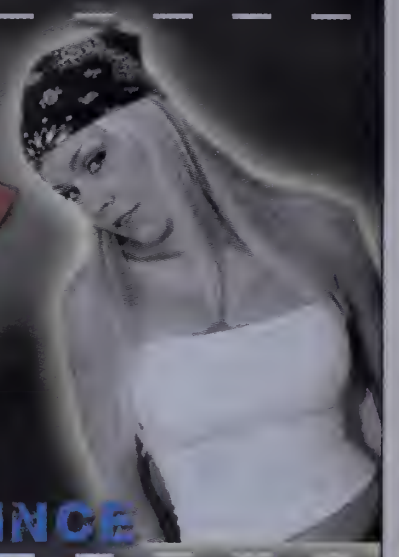

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